

**FOREIGN BROADCAST INFORMATION SERVICE
KEY WEST BUREAU**



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MFL-6009
5 April 1986

MEMORANDUM TO: Director, Foreign Broadcast Information Service
THROUGH: Chief, Operations Group
SUBJECT: Monthly Report--Key West Bureau--March 1986

I. GENERAL

If life in Key West could be compared to an orchestration, the musical expressions "andante" and "poco a poco" would be most appropriate.

The local NAS housing project officer remains optimistic that the contractor will meet his 19 May completion schedule, but more realistic views look toward the end of June. After over 5 months of work only one unit has a roof on it and interior work has yet to begin. The contractor estimates that the project is about 60 percent finished and blames delays on materials, delivery problems and lack of adequate skilled labor. He noted that of 58 laborers on his Key West payroll, on average only 31 show up on any given day fit for work. Extension of the existing seawall is being studied by Southdiv/NAVFAC in Charleston and as yet there is no firm cost estimate. As a sidelight to the housing issue, the State of Florida recently released an updated cost of living survey which shows that Monroe County continues to have the highest cost of living in the state, 9.47 percent above the median.

Also indicative of the local "manana" attitude, after piddling around for several weeks work on repairing the damaged roof section over the main operations room, work finally began in earnest on 31 March and should be complete O/A 8 April. The weather was very cooperative and thus our open-air "solarium" did not cause undue discomfort. Our new CAC condensing/compressor unit was delivered on 26 March and installed on 2 April, working beautifully.

As for our various antenna projects, we are still awaiting completion of the "H"-frame mountings for our new TV "Yagi" arrays to be mounted on the new tower. We received an official go-ahead on 17 March for an experimental 2,700-ft longwire at

Boca Chica. Dynalectron is currently erecting the antenna which we hope to have operational on 7 April for a cruising survey. The Hermes shortwave array is last on the list of priorities.

Recruiting for new monitors suffered a severe setback with notification that three candidates failed to get through the screening process. Two more applicants visited Key West for interviews and testing in March. Both were offered positions but each has strong reservations about working and living conditions in Key West and thus do not look promising.

II. OPERATIONS

A. Monitorial/Editorial

March was a very subdued month operationally, probably due to a combination of spring fever and the fact that Fidel Castro was off island a good part of the month attending the Soviet party congress in Moscow, followed by a state visit to the DPRK. Cuban media was not observed to carry live or recorded reports on Fidel's two main domestic appearances, a closing speech to a meeting on the national health system and a 22 March question-and-answer session with journalists attending a Havana meeting of nonaligned countries' press services.

Elsewhere in the Caribbean, the Dominican Republic's main political party, the PRD, finally settled a longstanding quarrel over who would get the party's nod for the presidential nomination.

In Jamaica, a 3-day strike by physicians did little to alleviate the economic woes of Prime Minister Seaga, who continues to tread stormy political waters.

Politics remain heated in the wake of the end of the Duvalier regime in Haiti. Colonel Namphy reorganized the National Governing Council to assuage concerns by the populace over followers of the former regime retaining positions of power in the new government. Except for one major military-civilian confrontation which resulted in several deaths, the situation remains calm, at least on the surface.

In Mexico economic problems caused by severe depression of world oil prices highlighted reporting for the month.

B. Communications

DCA is dragging its feet on approving our request for a software change on the NAS Naval Communications Unit's new Mode I computer which would restore pinkie-coding for MIDAS

copy. Our plan to reroute our commo circuits to Boca Chica via J-6/COMUSFORCARIB is still under local review, and latest word is that this change may also require DCA approval. It is extremely doubtful any change could be effected prior to the start of the local rainy season in June when existing cable paths suffer from flooding.

C. Cruising

Voice coverage of the Dominican Republic suffered a setback in mid-March when VOA/Radio Marti began to sign on 1 hour earlier with the onset of Cuban summer time, wiping out reception of two stations on or near Radio Marti's frequency. The transition from winter to spring radio propagation conditions has also adversely affected reception of newscasts from Jamaica.

Observation of Haitian radio behavior continued throughout the month, but generally poor reception and interference from Radio Marti on Radio Soleil's frequency precluded satisfactory recordings of news material for possible phone patching.

note - 6/10/85
As Encl. letter.

Preparations were made for an upcoming survey in early April at Boca Chica NAS once the temporary longwire is erected. The bureau will outfit a rented van with all necessary radio and recording equipment ("Mobile Monitoring Unit--MMU").

D. Technical

Upon written receipt of a letter from NAS Commanding Officer Capt. Ray Sullivan on 17 March, plans were finalized for installation of a temporary longwire at Boca Chica. The antenna should be ready by 7 April.

Next project on the list is installation of the Hermes shortwave antenna. The eight supporting loops have already been staked out with an azimuth of 221 degrees on the antenna field to the east of the operations building. At this angle the array's beam pattern will be focussed on Belize with enough leeway to bring in Mexico City on the one end, and Managua on the other.

III. ADMINISTRATION

A. Personnel

who has been on LWOP since 27 August while awaiting full-time employment with another component, returned to duty on WAE status on 1 April.

STAT

A PHS file on [] applicant for PT teletypist, was forwarded for processing on 21 March.

STAT

B. Building and Grounds

A new Dunham-Bush condensing/compressor unit with corrosion resitant copper fins was delivered on 27 March. It is scheduled for installation on 2 April and will replace the badly corroded original unit -- on line for only 3 years -- which has been at the root of much of the bureau's troubles with the CAC unit.

Nonexpendable property received during the month includes: 1 Dunham-Bush condensing unit, Mdl. RCU-010T, unit cost: \$8,472.00; 5 Delta Electronics multicouplers, Mdl. SRMC-1x10-LFB-50, SN: 1470, 1472, 1477, 1478 and 1479, unit cost: \$1,550.00.

IV. VISITS

1. [] visited bureau 4 March for interview for part-time teletypist position.

STAT

2. D/DO Clair George visited bureau 6 March for orientation and briefing on operations.

3. Monitor applicant [] visited bureau 19-20 March for interview and further evaluation.

STAT

4. Former FBIS engineer [] visited bureau 20 March.

STAT

5. Reservists CDR D.K. Pierce, Air Force LTC R.M. Scott, Air Force MAJ Steven Irish, and Air Force CAPT Stevan Gelfand visited buerau 21 March for orientation and briefing.

6. Monitor Applicant [] visited bureau 24-25 March for interview and further evaluation.

STAT

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STAT

Chief, FBIS Key West Bureau

Attachment:
Production Report

KEY WEST BUREAU PRODUCTION REPORT FOR MARCH 1986

I. TOTALS FROM ALL SOURCES:

TOTAL PUBLISHABLE WORDAGE FILED DURING MONTH: 98,940

TOTAL NON-PUBLISHABLE WORDAGE FILED DURING MONTH : 19,530

TOTAL NUMBER OF PUBLISHABLE ITEMS FILED DURING MONTH : 426

	BROADCAST	PRESS AGENCIES	PUBLICATIONS
II. INPUT OF REGULAR COVERAGE:	2,575	14,700	21
(PUBLISHABLE WORDS PER WEEK	MIN	MIN	ISSUES
III. OUTPUT FROM ALL SOURCES:			
(PUBLISHABLE WORDS PER MONTH)			

BAHAMAS

Nassau Domestic Service in English	<u>820</u>		
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Nassau THE TRIBUNE in English			<u>160</u>
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BARBADOS

Bridgetown CANA in English		<u>41,030</u>	
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Bridgetown ADVOCATE in English			<u>120</u>
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Bridgetown SUNDAY ADVOCATE in English			<u>-0-</u>
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BELIZE

Belize City Domestic Service in English	<u>-0-</u>		
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CUBA

Havana Radio Progreso Network in Spanish	<u>7,080</u>		
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Havana Radio Reloj Network in Spanish	<u>10,210</u>		
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Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish	<u>1,500</u>		
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Havana Radio Periodico Del Aire in Spanish	<u>470</u>		
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KEY WEST BUREAU PRODUCTION REPORT FOR MARCH 1986

CUBA

Havana Tele-Rebelde Network in Spanish	<u>3,980</u>	
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Havana Television Cubana Network in Spanish	<u>4,990</u>	
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Havana Television Service in Spanish	<u>7,830</u>	
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Havana Domestic Service in Spanish	<u>1,480</u>	
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DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

Santo Domingo Cadena Brea Pena in Spanish	<u>-0-</u>	
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Santo Domingo LISTIN DIARIO in Spanish		<u>2,490</u>
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JAMAICA

Kingston Domestic Service in English	<u>230</u>	
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Kingston DAILY GLEANER in English		<u>530</u>
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Kingston SUNDAY GLEANER in English		<u>-0-</u>
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MEXICO

Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish	<u>12,160</u>	
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NETHERLANDS ANTILLES

Bonaire Trans World Radio in English	<u>3,610</u>	
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THE NETHERLANDS

Hilversum International in English	<u>140</u>	
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OTHER SOURCES:

SURINAME

Paramaribo International Service in English	<u>110</u>	
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